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## A Reminiscence of Tokai

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As I look back over my last five years at the Advanced Science Research Center, it is hard to recall the sharp contrasts in lifestyle and environment that impacted me when I first arrived. Everything here is familiar and comfortable, so now I must brace myself for “culture shock” when I return to the U.S., especially so in view of the many changes that have taken place there since I left!

We started out in the year 2000 as the Uranium NMR Group with an ambitious agenda. We have now evolved into the “Actinide NMR Group” with a wide-ranging and many-faceted program of research underway. Not everything has worked out as we had planned, but that is no surprise in the field of fundamental physics research. Many things have worked out in very interesting ways, by which I mean to be surprisingly good. I think there are very interesting developments ahead, and although I may “miss” some exciting research successes by leaving now, I hope to remain loosely connected with the Tokai NMR group and gain some appreciation of future developments in that way. I would only hope that the fundamental research programs at ASRC, which have blossomed so beautifully under the excellent stewardship of Yasuoka sensei, will survive the management transition which lies ahead and will continue to prosper.

Viewed in the perspective of my life-long career in physics research, my years at ASRC in Tokai have been a wonderful capstone to an interesting career which I was fortunate enough to have had. My earlier years at Murray Hill were also very exciting, but after the breakup of AT&T in the 1980's the atmosphere deteriorated there, and as

you may know, nowadays there is almost no trace of fundamental research at Bell Labs. When I left there in 1996 I found that obtaining contract support for research in a university was very difficult for someone nearing the end of their career. The invitation to come to Tokai as a group leader was in fact a renaissance for me and has truly been the opportunity of a lifetime. The opportunity to live in Japan for as long as 5+ years has changed my perspective on the world in many important ways. It is something that I count among my most valuable life experiences. Although my case is in some ways quite different, the tradition in Japan of employment for persons such as me is one which goes back to the nineteenth century.

I have had many memorable experiences during my sojourn in Japan. Foremost has been the opportunity to work among a very high-quality group of individuals, whose deference to me for these past years will always be cherished and appreciated. Second, my ongoing involvement with the volunteers who offer Japanese language instruction in Tokai (now known as the JLT) has been an invaluable resource to me, as I consider even my rather modest achievement of competence with the Japanese language to be essential to the enjoyment of life here. Finally, as I mentioned in these pages five years ago, it is wonderful to live by the sea. The climate and atmosphere in Tokai benefits greatly from this, and I feel that I personally have also benefited from this unique resource.

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